bilateral trade and also to catalyse the investment into each other's country. Some of the initiatives taken by both the governments include

(i) All trade in hard currency, on internationally competitive pricing and norms;

(ii) Extension of Mutual-Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment;

(iii) Encouragement to direct business level contacts, for example through trade fairs, and exhibitions, exchange of delegations, joint business councils, etc.;

(iv) Promotion of joint ventures and other forms of economic co-operation;

(v) Encouragement counter-trades and its variants;

(vi) Setting up of joint commission, joint committees and holding of these meetings;

(vii) Encouragement to better quality control;

(viii) Promotion of consignment exports and creation/leasing of warehousing facilities;

(ix) Encouragement of exchange of commercial visits;

(x) Encouraging setting up of infrastructure facilities like joint venture banks etc.

(c) both the countries are working out on the possibilities of setting up warehouses in each others country.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to avail of and explore the possibilities in this area.

Mobile Vans provided to Cater to RPDS in Thane Distt. of Maharashtra

2391. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blocks in Thane district of Maharasthra where mobile vans have been provided to cater to RPDS;

(b) whether any evaluation of the success of the above scheme in Thane district has been made; and

(c) whether Government intend to provide more vans to the above district by removing budgetary constraints?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Government of Maharashtra have reported that 21 mobile vans have been provided to Thane District.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Funds are provided to State Governments, who in turn decide the district-wise allocation.

Expansion of Bauxite Mines and Aluminium Refineries of NALCO

2392. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the expansion of the bauxite mines and aluminium refineries of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO);

(b) whether Government have approved the plan in this regard; and

(c) if so, the duration by which the expansion programme is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (c) The proposal of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to expand the capacity of Bauxite Mines from 2.4 Million Tonnes Per year (MTPY) to 4.8 MTPY and Alumina Refinery from 0.8 MTPY to 1.575 MTPY, both situated at Damanjodi, at an investment of Rs. 1664.60 crores (June, 1996 price level) has been approved by the